

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF SOUTH DAKOTA
SOUTHERN DIVISION

FILED
MAR 10 2008

CLERK

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

* CR. 07-40090-02

Plaintiff,

vs.

CHRISTOPHER JAMES AUSTAD,

* REPORT AND RECOMMENDATION
* ON DEFENDANT'S CHANGE
* OF PLEA

Defendant.

This matter came before the court for a change of plea hearing on Monday, March 10, 2008.

The Defendant, Christopher James Austad, appeared in person and by his counsel, Assistant Federal Public Defender Bill Delaney, while the United States appeared by its Assistant United States Attorney, Jeff Clapper.

The defendant consented in open court to the change of plea before a United States magistrate judge. This court finds that the defendant's consent was voluntary and upon the advice of counsel. The government also consented to the plea hearing before a magistrate judge.

Defendant has petitioned the court to plead guilty to Count 3 of the Indictment which charges him with Mailing Threatening Communications in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 876. At the hearing, the defendant was advised of the nature of the charges to which the defendant would plead guilty and the maximum penalties applicable, specifically: 10 years imprisonment; a \$250,000 fine; or both; 3 years supervised release; 2 additional years imprisonment if supervised release is revoked; and a \$100 special assessment.

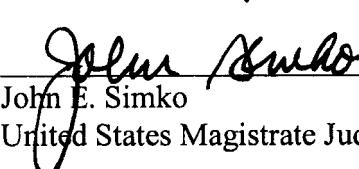
Upon questioning the defendant personally in open court, it is the finding of the court that the defendant is fully competent and capable of entering an informed plea, that the defendant is aware of the nature of the charges and the consequences of the plea, and that his plea of guilty to Count 3 of the Indictment is a knowing and voluntary plea supported by an independent basis in fact containing each of the essential elements of the offense. It is, therefore, my report and recommendation that the guilty plea to Count 3 of the Indictment be accepted and the defendant be adjudged guilty of that offense.

NOTICE TO PARTIES

The parties have ten (10) days after service of this Report and Recommendation to file written objections pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 636(b)(1), unless an extension of time for good cause is obtained. Failure to file timely objections will result in the waiver of the right to appeal questions of fact. Objections must be timely and specific in order to require de novo review by the District Court. Thompson v. Nix, 897 F.2d 356 (8th Cir. 1990); Nash v. Black, 781 F.2d 665 (8th Cir. 1986).

Dated this 10 day of March, 2008.

BY THE COURT:


John E. Simko
United States Magistrate Judge

ATTEST:

JOSEPH HAAS, Clerk


By Jessie Merschimer Deputy
(SEAL)